

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are presently pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakazeki et al. in view of Takahashi et al. In response to the present Office Action, Applicant has amended claim 1 to add the element of pressure generating grooves and that these grooves are formed on the shaft during the injection molding process. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification but more specifically in paragraphs [0022] and [0024]. The addition of this element makes the present invention patentable over the prior because the prior art does not show pressure generating grooves being formed during the injection molding process. The advantage of forming the grooves at this step is that the shaft needs only simple grinding and/or lapping during post-processing to obtain the desired concentricity and perpendicularity. Furthermore, the grooves are only on the shaft and therefore no other parts need to be machined, consequently reducing production costs and time.

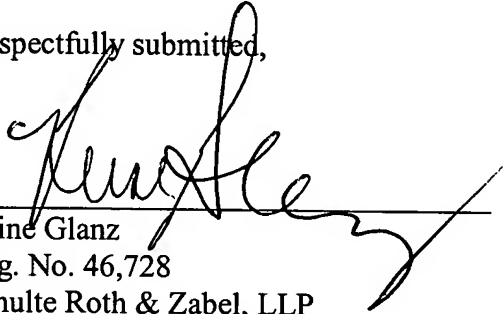
In summary, it is respectfully submitted that the amendments entered herewith overcome each of the rejections.

Serial No. 10/634,007
Docket No. 057517-0040

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicant's undersigned counsel at the number noted below if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 057517-0020.

Respectfully submitted,

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